

# ON THE PROPERTIES OF GENERALIZED HARMONIC AND OSCILLATORY NUMBERS. SIMPLE PROOF OF THE PRIME NUMBER THEOREM

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**ABSTRACT.** We derived the sum identities for generalized harmonic and corresponding oscillatory numbers for which a sieve procedure can be applied. The obtained results enable us to understand better the properties of these numbers and their asymptotic behavior. On the basis of these identities a simple proof of the Prime Number Theorem is represented.

**Keywords:** generalized harmonic number, oscillatory number, sieve procedure, Möbius inversion, distribution of primes, the Prime Number Theorem

## 1. GENERALIZED HARMONIC NUMBERS

In our earlier report we have discussed the regular parts for basic functions of prime numbers [1]. Before considering their oscillatory parts, we would like to discuss some important properties of the generalized harmonic and corresponding oscillatory numbers.

The generalized harmonic number in power  $s$  is given by

$$(1) \quad H_x(s) = \sum_{k=1}^x \frac{1}{k^s},$$

where  $s$  is any complex number. The basic properties of these numbers can be found elsewhere [7]. Throughout this paper we use repeatedly Möbius inversion formula [3] and here we give it for references: if for all positive  $x$  satisfied

$$(2) \quad \mathcal{G}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^x \mathcal{F}\left(\frac{x}{k}\right)$$

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then

$$(3) \quad \mathcal{F}(x) = \sum_{k=1}^x \mu(k) \mathcal{G}\left(\frac{x}{k}\right)$$

and vice versa, where

$$\mu(n) = \mu_n = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ (-1)^m & \text{if } n \text{ is a product of } m \text{ distinct primes,} \\ 0 & \text{if the square of primes divides } n. \end{cases}$$

is Möbius function.

From the definition (1) and Möbius inversion formula (2) and (3) directly follows

$$x^s \cdot H_x(s) = \sum_{k=1}^x \left(\frac{x}{k}\right)^s$$

and

$$x^s = \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \left(\frac{x}{k}\right)^s H_{\frac{x}{k}}(s).$$

Hence we get the important sum identity

$$(4) \quad \sum_{k=1}^x \frac{\mu_k}{k^s} H_{\frac{x}{k}}(s) = 1.$$

Using Stieltjes integration method, we can rewrite the same equation in integral form

$$(5) \quad \int_{1-}^x H_{\frac{x}{y}}(s) \cdot dM_y(s) = 1,$$

where  $M_y(s) = \sum_{k=1}^y \frac{\mu_k}{k^s}$  is corresponding oscillatory number in power  $s$  (our notations are similar to those of commonly accepted [2, 4, 5, 6] for the case  $s = 0$  and  $s = 1$ , see below definitions (35)-(37)).

At  $s=1$  for ordinary harmonic number  $H_x(1) \equiv H_x$ , we have

$$(6) \quad \sum_{k=1}^x \frac{\mu_k}{k} H_{\frac{x}{k}} = 1$$

with corresponding integral form

$$(7) \quad \int_{1-}^x H_{\frac{x}{y}} \cdot dM_y = 1.$$

Applying in (6) the asymptotic formula for harmonic number

$$H_{\frac{x}{k}} = \sum_{n=1}^{x/k} \frac{1}{n} = \log \left[ \frac{x}{k} \right] + \gamma + \frac{1}{2 \left[ \frac{x}{k} \right]} - \frac{1}{12 \left[ \frac{x}{k} \right]^2} + \frac{1}{120 \left[ \frac{x}{k} \right]^4} - \dots,$$

where  $\gamma = 0.5772156 \dots$  is Euler's constant, and substituting  $\left[\frac{x}{k}\right]$  approximately by  $\frac{x}{k}$  we obtain

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=1}^x \frac{\mu_k}{k} \log \frac{x}{k} + \gamma m_x + \frac{1}{2x} M_x - \frac{1}{12x^2} M_x(-1) + \dots \approx 1, \\ & m_x \log x - \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \frac{\log k}{k} + \gamma m_x + \frac{1}{2x} M_x - \frac{1}{12x^2} M_x(-1) + \dots \approx 1, \\ & \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \frac{\log k}{k} \approx -1 + (\log x + \gamma) m_x + \frac{1}{2x} M_x - \frac{1}{12x^2} M_x(-1) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Hence it follows that, if  $m_x = o\left(\frac{1}{\log x}\right)$  at  $x \rightarrow \infty$  (and, as a consequence, all terms on the right from the term with  $m_x$  tend to zero), then  $\sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \frac{\log k}{k} \rightarrow -1$  and vice versa.

For another important case when  $s = 0$ ,  $H_x(0) \equiv [x]$ , we have well known formula

$$(9) \quad \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \left[\frac{x}{k}\right] = 1,$$

with corresponding integral form

$$(10) \quad \int_{1-}^x \left[\frac{x}{k}\right] \cdot dM_y = 1.$$

Using a sieve procedure, the generalized harmonic number can be expanded onto  $s$ -powers of the consecutive prime numbers  $2, 3, \dots, p \leq x$  as

$$(11) \quad H_x(s) = 1 + \frac{1}{2^s} H_{\frac{x}{2}}^{(2)}(s) + \frac{1}{3^s} H_{\frac{x}{3}}^{(3)}(s) + \dots + \frac{1}{p^s} H_{\frac{x}{p}}^{(\mathbb{P})}(s),$$

where by definition recursively

$$(12) \quad H_x^{(\mathbb{P})}(s) \equiv H_x(s) - \frac{1}{2^s} H_{\frac{x}{2}}^{(2)}(s) - \frac{1}{3^s} H_{\frac{x}{3}}^{(3)}(s) - \dots - \frac{1}{p_-^s} H_{\frac{x}{p_-}}^{(\mathbb{P}_-)}(s),$$

or recurrently

$$\begin{aligned}
H_x^{(2)}(s) &\equiv H_x(s) , \\
H_x^{(3)}(s) &\equiv H_x^{(2)}(s) - \frac{1}{2^s} H_{\frac{x}{2}}^{(2)}(s) = H_x(s) - \frac{1}{2^s} H_{\frac{x}{2}}(s) , \\
(13) \quad H_x^{(5)}(s) &\equiv H_x^{(3)}(s) - \frac{1}{3^s} H_{\frac{x}{3}}^{(3)}(s) \\
&= H_x(s) - \frac{1}{2^s} H_{\frac{x}{2}}(s) - \frac{1}{3^s} H_{\frac{x}{3}}(s) + \frac{1}{6^s} H_{\frac{x}{6}}(s) , \\
&\dots , \\
H_x^{(\mathbb{P})}(s) &\equiv H_x^{(\mathbb{P}_-)}(s) - \frac{1}{p_-^s} H_{\frac{x}{p_-}}^{(\mathbb{P}_-)}(s) ,
\end{aligned}$$

$p_-$  is the prime preceding the prime  $p$ .

Consider asymptotic properties at  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . Let us apply Euler product formula, which is valid for  $Re(s) > 1$  [2, 4, 5], to represent the generalized harmonic number limit as

$$\begin{aligned}
(14) \quad H_\infty(s) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^s} = \left( \sum_{a_2 \geq 0} \frac{1}{2^{a_2 s}} \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{a_3 \geq 0} \frac{1}{3^{a_3 s}} \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{a_5 \geq 0} \frac{1}{5^{a_3 s}} \right) \cdot \dots \\
&= \prod_{\text{all primes } p} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p^s} \right)^{-1} .
\end{aligned}$$

Further sieving all even number reciprocals yields

$$\begin{aligned}
(15) \quad H_\infty^{(3)}(s) &= \sum_{(k,2)=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^s} = \left( \sum_{a_3 \geq 0} \frac{1}{3^{a_3 s}} \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{a_5 \geq 0} \frac{1}{5^{a_3 s}} \right) \cdot \dots \\
&= \prod_{\text{all primes } p > 2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p^s} \right)^{-1} , \\
\frac{H_\infty^{(3)}(s)}{H_\infty(s)} &= \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2^s} \right) .
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, sieving multiples  $p = 3$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{\infty}^{(5)}(s) &= \sum_{(k,6)=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^s} = \left( \sum_{a_5 \geq 0} \frac{1}{5^{a_5 s}} \right) \cdot \dots \cdot \left( \sum_{a_p \geq 0} \frac{1}{p^{a_p s}} \right) \cdot \dots \\
 (16) \quad &= \prod_{\text{all primes } p > 3} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p^s} \right)^{-1}, \\
 \frac{H_{\infty}^{(5)}(s)}{H_{\infty}(s)} &= \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2^s} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3^s} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Continuing the sieving procedure up to any prime  $p$  leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{\infty}^{(\mathbb{D})}(s) &= \sum_{(k, p_{-}\#)=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^s} = \left( \sum_{a_p \geq 0} \frac{1}{p^{a_p s}} \right) \cdot \dots \\
 (17) \quad &= \prod_{\text{all primes } p > p_{-}} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p^s} \right)^{-1}, \\
 \frac{H_{\infty}^{(\mathbb{D})}(s)}{H_{\infty}(s)} &= \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2^s} \right) \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3^s} \right) \cdot \dots \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_{-}^s} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Consider important case  $s = 1$ . The sequence of formula transformations for consecutive prime numbers leads to the following set of identities

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_x^{(3)} &= H_x - \frac{1}{2}H_{\frac{x}{2}} = 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{9} + \dots + \frac{1}{q}, \quad q \leq x \\
 (18) \quad H_x - \frac{1}{2}H_{\frac{x}{2}} &= 1 + \frac{1}{3}H_{\frac{x}{3}}^{(3)} + \dots + \frac{1}{p}H_{\frac{x}{p}}^{(\mathbb{D})} = H_x^{(3)}, \\
 \frac{H_x^{(3)}}{H_x} &= \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{H_{\frac{x}{2}}}{H_x} \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

which limit at  $x \rightarrow \infty$  is

$$(19) \quad \frac{H_{\infty}^{(3)}}{H_{\infty}} = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right).$$

Similarly for the identities at  $p = 5$ , we write

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_x^{(5)} &= H_x - \frac{1}{2}H_{\frac{x}{2}} - \frac{1}{3}H_{\frac{x}{3}} + \frac{1}{6}H_{\frac{x}{6}} = 1 + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7} + \dots + \frac{1}{q}, \quad q \leq x \\
 (20) \quad \frac{H_x^{(5)}}{H_x} &= \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{H_{\frac{x}{2}}}{H_x} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{H_{\frac{x}{3}}}{H_x} + \frac{1}{6} \frac{H_{\frac{x}{6}}}{H_x} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

with corresponding limit

$$(21) \quad \frac{H_{\infty}^{(5)}}{H_{\infty}} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right).$$

Continuing the same procedure up to any prime  $p$ , we have

$$(22) \quad \frac{H_{\infty}^{(\mathbb{P})}}{H_{\infty}} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_-}\right).$$

Ultimately, sieving all primes  $p$ , we obtain

$$(23) \quad \frac{1}{\zeta(1)} = \prod_{\text{all primes } p} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) = 0,$$

where

$$(24) \quad \zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$$

is Riemann's zeta function and  $\zeta(1) \equiv H_{\infty}$ . Thus we have proved the appropriateness of Euler product formula for  $\zeta(s=1)$ .

Consider another important case  $s=0$  and  $H_x(0) = [x]$ . Using a similar procedure as in (11),  $[x]$  can be represented as

$$(25) \quad [x] = 1 + \pi_x^{(2)} + \pi_{\frac{x}{2}}^{(3)} + \dots + \pi_{\frac{x}{p}}^{(\mathbb{P})},$$

where by definition recursively

$$(26) \quad \pi_x^{(\mathbb{P})} \equiv [x] - \pi_x^{(2)} - \pi_{\frac{x}{2}}^{(3)} - \dots - \pi_{\frac{x}{p}}^{(\mathbb{P})},$$

or recurrently

$$(27) \quad \begin{aligned} \pi_x^{(2)} &\equiv [x], \\ \pi_x^{(3)} &\equiv \pi_x^{(2)} - \pi_{\frac{x}{2}}^{(2)} = [x] - \left[\frac{x}{2}\right], \\ \pi_x^{(5)} &\equiv \pi_x^{(3)} - \pi_{\frac{x}{3}}^{(3)} = [x] - \left[\frac{x}{2}\right] - \left[\frac{x}{3}\right] + \left[\frac{x}{6}\right], \\ &\dots \\ \pi_x^{(\mathbb{P})} &\equiv \pi_x^{(\mathbb{P})} - \pi_{\frac{x}{p_-}}^{(\mathbb{P})}, \end{aligned}$$

$p_-$  is the prime preceding  $p$ .

Let us consider the case  $p = 3$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \pi_x^{(3)} &\equiv [x] - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{2} \right\rfloor = \sum_{(q,2)=1, q \leq x} 1, \\
 \pi_x^{(3)} &= [x] - \pi_{\frac{x}{2}}^{(2)} = 1 + \pi_{\frac{x}{3}}^{(3)} + \dots + \pi_{\frac{x}{p}}^{(p)}, \\
 \frac{\pi_x^{(3)}}{x} &= \left( \frac{[x]}{x} - \frac{\left\lfloor \frac{x}{2} \right\rfloor}{x} \right),
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{28}$$

which limit at  $x \rightarrow \infty$  is

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi_x^{(3)}}{x} = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right).
 \tag{29}$$

Similarly for the identities at  $p = 5$ , we write

$$\begin{aligned}
 \pi_x^{(5)} &\equiv \sum_{(q,6)=1, q \leq x} 1, \\
 \frac{\pi_x^{(5)}}{x} &= \left( \frac{[x]}{x} - \frac{\left\lfloor \frac{x}{2} \right\rfloor}{x} - \frac{\left\lfloor \frac{x}{3} \right\rfloor}{x} + \frac{\left\lfloor \frac{x}{6} \right\rfloor}{x} \right)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{30}$$

with corresponding limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi_x^{(5)}}{x} = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} \right).
 \tag{31}$$

Continuing the same procedure up to any prime  $p$ , we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi_x^{(p)}}{x} = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} \right) \dots \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p-} \right).
 \tag{32}$$

Thus, from (32) and (18) we can see that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi_x^{(p)}}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_x^{(p)}}{H_x},
 \tag{33}$$

or

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \pi_x^{(p)} \frac{H_x}{x H_x^{(p)}} = 1.
 \tag{34}$$

## 2. GENERALIZED OSCILLATORY NUMBERS

The same approach as for generalized number  $H_x(s)$  can be applied for corresponding oscillatory number in power  $s$

$$M_x(s) = \sum_{k=1}^x \frac{\mu_k}{k^s}.
 \tag{35}$$

Particularly at  $s = 1$  and  $s = 0$  we have the classic summatory functions [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

$$(36) \quad M_x(1) \equiv m_x = \sum_{k=1}^x \frac{\mu_k}{k},$$

$$(37) \quad M_x(0) \equiv M_x = \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \quad - \text{ Mertens' function.}$$

Using Möbius inversion formula (2) and (3) in the same way as for (1), we have

$$x^s \cdot M_x(s) = \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \left( \frac{x}{k} \right)^s,$$

$$x^s = \sum_{k=1}^x \left( \frac{x}{k} \right)^s M_{\frac{x}{k}}(s).$$

From where the analog of identity (4) is obtained in the form

$$(38) \quad \sum_{k=1}^x \frac{1}{k^s} \cdot M_{\frac{x}{k}}(s) = 1,$$

also having the integral representation

$$(39) \quad \int_{1-}^x M_{\frac{x}{y}}(s) \cdot dH_y(s) = 1.$$

Once again, at  $s = 1$  and  $s = 0$  we have

$$(40) \quad \sum_{k=1}^x \frac{1}{k} \cdot m_{\frac{x}{k}} = 1,$$

$$(41) \quad \int_{1-}^x m_{\frac{x}{y}} dH_y = 1$$

and

$$(42) \quad \sum_{k=1}^x M_{\frac{x}{k}} = 1,$$

$$(43) \quad \int_{1-}^x M_{\frac{x}{k}} d[y] = 1,$$

respectively.

Obviously, for the equation (38)

$$M_x(s) + \frac{1}{2^s} M_{\frac{x}{2}}(s) + \frac{1}{3^s} M_{\frac{x}{3}}(s) + \dots + \frac{1}{[x]^s} M_{\frac{x}{x}}(s) = 1$$



the sieve procedure can be applied. Let us, for example, sieve all  $s$ -powers of even numbers (sieving  $p = 2$ ). In this case we rewrite (38) for  $x/2$  and multiply both parts of obtained equation by  $\frac{1}{2^s}$

$$(44) \quad \frac{1}{2^s} M_{\frac{x}{2}}(s) + \frac{1}{4^s} M_{\frac{x}{4}}(s) + \frac{1}{6^s} M_{\frac{x}{6}}(s) + \dots + \frac{1}{2^s \left[\frac{x}{2}\right]^s} M_{\frac{(x/2)}{(x/2)}}(s) = \frac{1}{2^s}.$$

Subtracting (44) from (38), we derive

$$(45) \quad M_x(s) + \frac{1}{3^s} M_{\frac{x}{3}}(s) + \frac{1}{5^s} M_{\frac{x}{5}}(s) + \dots = 1 - \frac{1}{2^s}.$$

Sieving further  $p = 3$ , we have

$$(46) \quad M_x(s) + \frac{1}{5^s} M_{\frac{x}{5}}(s) + \frac{1}{7^s} M_{\frac{x}{7}}(s) + \dots = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3^s}\right).$$

Sieve procedure can be continued until any prime  $p$ , for which  $x \geq p\#$  (primorial)  $\equiv 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot \dots \cdot p$

$$(47) \quad \begin{aligned} M_x(s) + \frac{1}{p_{+1}^s} M_{\frac{x}{p_{+1}}}(s) + \frac{1}{p_{+2}^s} M_{\frac{x}{p_{+2}}}(s) + \dots \\ = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3^s}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $p_{+1}$ ,  $p_{+2}$ , etc. are all successive primes after prime  $p$  up to  $x$ .

Ultimately, sieving all primes, we obtain

$$(48) \quad M_\infty(s) = \prod_{\text{all primes } p} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right).$$

Hence at  $s = 1$  from (48) immediately follows the Prime Number Theorem

$$(49) \quad m_\infty \equiv \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu_k}{k} = \prod_{\text{all primes } p} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) = 0.$$

At  $s = 0$  the sieve procedure for  $M(x)$  gives

$$(50) \quad \begin{aligned} M_x + M_{\frac{x}{2}} + M_{\frac{x}{3}} + \dots + M_{\frac{x}{x}} &= 1, \\ M_x + M_{\frac{x}{3}} + M_{\frac{x}{5}} + \dots &= 0, \\ \dots, \\ M_x + M_{\frac{x}{p_{+1}}} + M_{\frac{x}{p_{+2}}} + \dots &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

for any finite  $p$  and  $x \geq p\#$ . In this case after sieving all primes, we get uncertainty  $0 \cdot \infty$  for  $M_\infty$ .

From Euler product formula, which is valid now at  $s = 1$  (14), (23) and (48), follows

$$(51) \quad \varsigma(s) \cdot \vartheta(s) = 1,$$

where we introduced for symmetry

$$(52) \quad \vartheta(s) \equiv M_\infty(s) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu_k}{k^s}.$$

For example at  $s = 2$  we have

$$(53) \quad M_\infty(2) = \vartheta(2) = \frac{1}{\varsigma(2)} = \frac{6}{\pi^2}.$$

From Riemann's functional equation

$$(54) \quad \varsigma(s) = 2^s \pi^{s-1} \sin(\pi s/2) \Gamma(1-s) \varsigma(1-s)$$

and from Euler product follows the functional equations for  $\vartheta(s)$ -function

$$(55) \quad \vartheta(s) = \left(2^s \pi^{s-1} \sin(\pi s/2) \Gamma(1-s)\right)^{-1} \vartheta(1-s).$$

In conclusion, using the approach above, we represent some preliminary results for oscillatory part of Chebyshev's  $\psi$ -function

$$(56) \quad \begin{aligned} \log[x]! &= \sum_{k=1}^x \log k = \sum_{k=1}^x \psi_{\frac{x}{k}}, \\ \psi(x) &= \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \log \left[\frac{x}{k}\right]! , \\ \sum_{k=1}^x \psi_{\frac{x}{k}} &= \sum_{k=1}^x \log \frac{k}{x} + [x] \log x , \\ [x] \log x &= \sum_{k=1}^x \left(\psi_{\frac{x}{k}} + \log \frac{x}{k}\right) , \\ \psi_x + \log x &= \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \left[\frac{x}{k}\right] \log \frac{x}{k} . \end{aligned}$$

Applying the last equation in (56), we can separate the regular and oscillatory parts of the  $\psi$ -function

$$(57) \quad \psi_x = x \cdot \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \frac{1}{k} \log \frac{x}{k} - \left( \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \left\{ \frac{x}{k} \right\} \log \frac{x}{k} + \log x \right),$$

According to (4) and (8) the first term in right hand side tends to  $x$  while the second term is oscillatory part, determined by nontrivial zeros of Riemann's zeta function (24) through explicit formula

$$(58) \quad \sum_{\zeta(\rho)=0} \frac{x^\rho}{\rho} \approx \sum_{k=1}^x \mu_k \left\{ \frac{x}{k} \right\} \log \frac{x}{k} + \log x.$$

More detailed discussions concerning oscillatory parts of the basic functions of prime numbers will be published soon [8].

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